

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SWF-02 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-03

SP-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /174 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7283

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, PO

SUBJECT: EC POLITICAL COOPERATION

1. SUMMARY. EC POLITICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITY CONTINUES.
PORTUGAL HAS NOW BEEN ADDED TO THE AGENDA. END SUMMARY

2. THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN RECENT WEEKS IN
POLITICAL COOPERATION AMONG THE MEMBER STATES OF THE
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COMMUNITY. THIS COOPERATION HAS BEEN EFFECTED AT VARIOUS

LEVELS. THE MINISTERS MEET QUARTERLY (AND MAY, AS ON JULY 22-23, ALSO MEET ON THE OCCASION OF AN EC FOREIGN MINISTERS' COUNCIL) AS "THE CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE COMMUNITY." THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRIES OF THE NINE (SEE PARIS 17342) HAVE CONTINUED AS HAVE MEETINGS OF SPECIALIZED GROUPS UNDER THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS. IN ADDITION, THERE HAVE BEEN MEETINGS BETWEEN FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES, IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS, AND THE EIGHT AMBASSADORS IN PARIS.

3. AT THE MEETING IN BRUSSELS, THE MINISTERS FORMALLY APPROVED THE NEXT STEP IN THE EC/ARAB DIALOGUE (SEE EC BRUSSELS 5570). ON CYPRUS, THEY ISSUED THE COMMUNIQUE OF JULY 22 (EC BRUSSELS 5488). THE MINISTERS ALSO AGREED TO INTENSIFY THEIR WORK ON PORTUGAL. DRAWING A PARALLEL WITH CYPRUS (I. E., IF THE EC HAD BEEN MORE AWARE OF CURRENT CONDITIONS IN CYPRUS A FEW WEEKS AGO, IT COULD HAVE CONSIDERED STEPS OR JOINT ACTIONS THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO PREVENT THE COUP AND THE SUBSEQUENT FIGHTING), BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE PROPOSED, AND THE MINISTERS AGREED, THAT THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS SHOULD EXAMINE THE CURRENT SITUATION IN PORTUGAL. THEY SHOULD KEEP INFORMED ABOUT CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS, AND CONSIDER WHAT STEPS, EITHER COORDINATED BILATERAL MEASURES OR COMMUNITY ACTIONS, THE NINE MIGHT TAKE TO ENCOURAGE AND PROMOTE STABILITY THERE.

4. BASED ON RECENT EXPERIENCE, IT APPEARS THAT INCREASED ACTIVITY IN THE POLITICAL COOPERATION AREA SUITS THE PURPOSES OF ALL THE NINE MEMBER STATES. ON ASSUMPTION OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP IN JULY, THE FRENCH USED IT TO ENHANCE THEIR EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL IMAGE. FOR THE BRITISH, POLITICAL COOPERATION, CARRIED OUT ON AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL RATHER THAN A COMMUNITY BASIS, AVOIDS RAISING DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS. POLITICAL COOPERATION HAS ALSO BEEN THE BENEFICIARY OF THE NEW FLEXIBLE FRENCH LOOK. FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES ANNOUNCED EARLIER THIS MONTH TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN STRASBOURG THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HE WOULD NOT REQUIRE HIS COLLEAGUES TO MOVE PHYSICALLY FROM ON LOCATION TO ANOTHER WHEN CHANGING THEIR FUNCTIONS FROM COUNCIL TO POLITICAL COOPERATIONS, AND HE HAS LIVED UP TO THAT COMMITMENT. THE COUNCIL THIS WEEK, FOR EXAMPLE, SMOOTHLY CHANGED FROM COUNCIL TO CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS WITHOUT MOVING FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING ROOM. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THIS RECENT INCREASE IN ACTIVITY, TOGETHER WITH THE TENDENCY OF THE MINISTERS TO CONGRATULATE

THEMSELVES ON THE SUCCESS OF THEIR STATEMENTS AND DEMARCHES
REGARDING CYPRUS, WILL HAVE A SNOWBALLING EFFECT. GREENWALD

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